

Our Voice

the spare change magazine

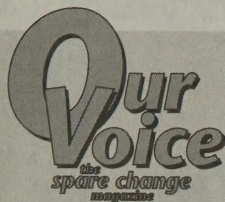
Who is that faceless person?

After three years of a street-sold publication, are vendors invisible people?



BIRTHDAY
YEARS

April 1997 Vol. 4 No. 4
SOLD BY DONATION
Please buy only from badged vendors.
Your vendor pays up to 60¢ per copy.



Publishers:

Bissell Centre, Edmonton
Calgary Urban Project Society, Edmonton
City Centre Church Corporation
General Manager: Gord Poschwatta
Editor and Design: Keith Wiley
Proofreader: Megan Collins

EDMONTON:

Bissell Centre
10527-96 Street • Edmonton • T5H 2H6
Phone: 423-2285 • Ext. 47 • Fax: 429-7908
Paper Distribution • Wendy McPherson
ADVERTISING: 428-4001

CALGARY:

Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS)
128 - 7th Avenue SE •
Calgary • T2G 0H5
Phone: 221-8790 • Fax: 221-8791
Paper Distribution • Ed Greanya
ADVERTISING: 262-2693

SASKATOON:

117A - 20th Street West
Saskatoon • SK • S7M 0W7
Phone: 664-8848 • Fax: 664-8842
Paper Distribution • Linda Biggs

EMAIL:

sparechg@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

OUR VOICE is published to provide an income opportunity for economically marginalized people in our society while communicating about their issues to the public.

ADVERTISING

For advertising rates and information, please contact **OUR VOICE** at 421-7966, John in Edmonton and in Calgary call Carol at 230-4477.

The VOICES

Our 3rd Anniversary issue

Our Voice, the 3rd anniversary issue, has some fascinating people stories. New Calgary assistant editor **LeAnn Brown** visited the Fearlessness Centre and relates some interesting tales of healing, of courage-building using art, see pages 6-7.

Two separate women's conferences looked at the struggles faced by women in poverty, by aboriginal women, and heard some interesting tales, as told here by **Linda Dumont, Dale Ladouceur and Kirby** see pages 18-19.

Are you curious about this magazine and how it got here? We've written a short life-story of our little publication on pages 12-13. It's a story of public generosity and kindness.

We have a special piece on the closing of the Calgary General, a controversial move in the downtown core of that city. See pages 8-9.

John T. Harvie looked up some of Winnipeg's young people in mid-winter, to find out where those folks who hang out in public all the rest of the year, see page 5 disappear to when it's really cold out.

In our *Words on the Street* column, **Heather Slade** talks about finding a safe place, and muses about the coming summer season. **John Zapantis** remembers a run-in with "the cops". **Darlene** wrote a personal little piece on her sister on the streets.

Wendy McPherson, the Distribution Coordinator in Edmonton, muses about working with the vendors, and also wrote

the profile this issue on vendor **John Gray**.

Poetry editor **Michael Walters** found some more great verse for page 17.

Thanks again as well to cartoonists: **Linda Dumont, Andy Philpotts, Ed Gould, Derek Oliver** and to crossword puzzler, **Susan Andrews**.

We're sending out a "get well soon" to **Linda Biggs** who handles **Our Voice** in Saskatoon. Linda has been hospitalized with some illness over the past month.

Welcome to LeAnn Brown in Calgary

Calgary writer **LeAnn Brown** has joined **Our Voice** as assistant Calgary editor and is already making a big contribution to the magazine with new ideas and angles on the content for **Our Voice**. People with story ideas or material to contribute to **Our Voice** can contact LeAnn through the Calgary office at 221-8790.

Watch for new YELLOW vendor badges in Edmonton

Our Voice vendors need to meet the code of conduct and keep their good standing in order to sell the magazine and use their vendor badge. To control the badges we have recently prepared new YELLOW vendor badges. Only vendors wearing the YELLOW badge are authorized. Please buy

APRIL 1997 Vol. 4 No. 4

OUR VOICE welcomes your contribution.

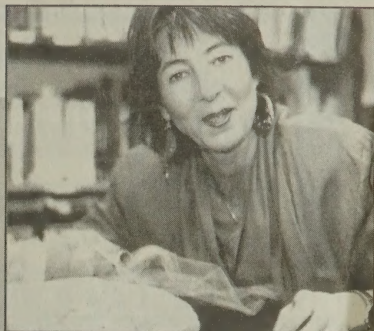
Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, unless otherwise indicated. **OUR VOICE** welcomes written submissions, particularly those on IBM or Mac compatible computer disk, cartoons, photographs or artwork. **OUR VOICE** cannot accept responsibility for any submission. No part of

this newspaper may be reproduced in any form without written permission from **OUR VOICE**. Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of **OUR VOICE**, the editors or publishers.

EMAIL: sparechg@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

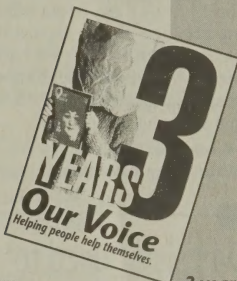
Fearlessness
and art...

6 ▶



Controversy
around
closing Calgary's
downtown
hospital

▶ 8-9



3 years and invisible?
Or visible?

◀ 12-13

Two conferences
for women
18-19 ▶

TOPIC:
Women

April
1997

AND

- ▶ 5 Winterpeg
- ▶ 20 News of the World
- ▶ 23 Cartoons

TALKING
BACK
Your opinion.
Our opinion:
10 & 11 ▶



17 ▶

POETRY

◀ 21

Our Vendor Profile

22 ▶

The Crossword

The people who bring
you **OUR VOICE**

This publication exists because of the efforts of the people who sell it to you on the street, the vendors. For our vendors **OUR VOICE** is a job that helps them to be independent and self-employed. Each issue we highlight one of our vendors in Vendor Profile to let you know a little bit about the people who bring you **OUR VOICE**. ♦





Building Better Futures

10450 - 42 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6J 6X4

Telephone: (403) 437-8080
Facsimile: (403) 435-2020

YOUTH LEADERS WANTED

YCI seeks volunteer Field Staff ages 26+ to
lead international teams of youth in ten week
long community development projects overseas.

Guyana and Costa Rica - Apply Now!

ACT NOW: Call the YCI Office at
(416) 971-9846 for Information
Package & Application Form

Best wishes
on your 3rd
Anniversary
from



YOUTH CHALLENGE
INTERNATIONAL



Bank where you belong.
Visit one of our 15 locations
today and discover the difference.

MELOCHE · MONNEX

Calgary • Edmonton • Halifax • Montréal • Toronto

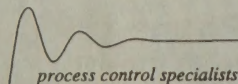
Monnex Insurance Brokers Limited

Suite 500, 10020 - 101 A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3G2
Telephone (403) 429-1112 • Toll-free 1-800-268-8955 • Telecopier (403) 423-3741

Arico Instruments Ltd.

"Working for a better tomorrow"

9241 - 35 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5Y1



Here's to our vendors



I started as Edmonton Distribution Coordinator for **Our Voice** at the end of January. When I started I wasn't really too sure what I was up against. I had a general idea as I have been working with the magazine for over a year already. I had met many of our vendors on various occasions, but now I see everyone on a more daily basis. These people bring so much into the office. I look forward to the day, just to see and hear how people are making out. These people have touched me in a special way. They have touched a part of my heart. Their dedication to their work is impeccable. At times it can be tough, but we work together to get through these difficult times.

Everyone is here for their own, and very different reasons. Every vendor has a different purpose for selling the magazine. When you see them out there, why not give an extra thought about why they may be out selling a magazine. They are making an honest effort to improve their lives. They work very hard at what they do. If you have a moment in your day, why not say "Hi" to one of our hard-working vendors. They are great people and great friends. I have built friendships with many and to me this is important.

Wendy McPherson
Distribution Coordinator

WORDS ON THE STREET

My sister used to work the streets

For her drug habit. She has a child, but he got taken away because of her cocaine habit. She was pregnant and still working the street. She almost lost her baby.

She had a lot of pains that one day. She still went to work for a high. We were not poor. We were raised right. But she made her choice. That day she went to work. She did her tricks, got high and forgot about her pregnancy.

A friend of hers, Cindy, knew something was wrong. But my sister would not go to the hospital. Cindy called my mother, who called the police. They found her in a lot of pain, but she didn't care. She was high. They took her to the hospital and she wasn't there even 15 minutes when the baby was born. It was a baby girl, but my sister didn't even care. My mother took the baby, gave her a home, a name and thank God, to this day, my niece is healthy and happy.

The baby is two now. My sister moved on to Vancouver and never asks how the baby is doing. She phones when she is high sometimes, begging for money.

How sad to give your life to drugs, a needle in the arm, do anything for a high and not remember what was done to you.

Darlene

Keeping cool in Winterpeg

Story and photos by John T. Harvie
WINNIPEG

Did you ever wonder where the Punks go when the winter winds hit the streets of Winnipeg? Yes the Punks, the spiky hair, torn jeans, Doc Martens and pierces everywhere.

In the pleasant climes one can always find a few of Winnipeg's Punk culture at the "Cement Circle" on the corner of River and Osborne, hanging out, or washing car windows for spare change.

But come winter when the "Cement Circle" fills with snow, there isn't a Punk to be found.

In reality, they head indoors to the malls and caf's that have a tolerant attitude to Winnipeg's Punks.

"They're fine, they keep their cool, they don't get out of control and they are never too loud," says Bill Merritt, manager of Coffee Island, a caf where Winnipeg Punks can cybernate on the Internet, half a block down Osborne from the "Cement Circle".

Matt Hawley, a bagpiper who busks in the summer months, says he has found a lot of useful information on the 'Net, from sheet music to other bagpipers offering lessons.

"I don't think of myself as a Punk," says Hawley, "I've tried dressing normal, but I just didn't feel comfortable."

So when Winnipeg's winter winds fill the "Cement Circle" with snow, our Punks head indoors to a friendlier environment.

"Maybe that is because they don't make any good Punk style winter clothes," muses Bill Merritt and adds, "They go anywhere they can get in where they feel comfortable."



Our Voice

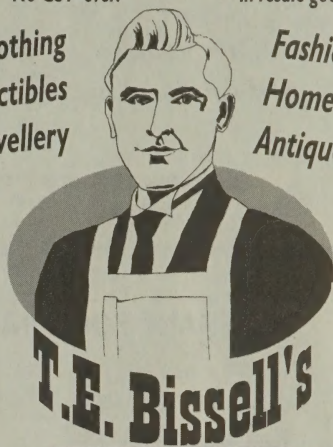
BEST QUALITY - LOWEST PRICES

No GST-ever!

in resale goods!

Clothing
Collectibles
Jewellery

Fashion
Home goods
Antiques



T.E. Bissell's

THRIFT SHOPPE

8818-118 AVENUE EDMONTON

9-9 Mon.-Fri. 9-6 Sat. 12-5 Sun.

BRING in this ad for **20% OFF**
any regular price clothing.

May not be
combined with any
other offer.
Exp May 4, 1997

Supporting and encouraging meaningful awareness
of drug & alcohol abuse in the community.

MIDWEST DRILLING



Contract Diamond Drilling
Site Investigation
Soil Sampling

Branches at

FLIN FLON

Phone:
(204) 687-3483
Fax:
(204) 687-3483

THOMPSON

Phone:
(204) 677-2930
Fax:
(204) 677-9852

YELLOWKNIFE

Phone:
(403) 873-3358
Fax:
(403) 873-6803

Head Office

180 Cree Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3S 3W1

Phone (204) 885-7532

Fax (204) 888-4767

**Congratulations
on
Our Voice's
3rd Anniversary**

From
Doug's Place
& Doug Bychyk

VETERANS FOOD BANK

Donations
Gratefully
Accepted

109, 315 - 10 Avenue SE
Calgary, AB T2G 0W2

Ted Knowler
POPPY CHAIRMAN

Phone (403) 265-6304

Help Our Veterans

**CASH FOR USED
AIR JORDANS!!**

1985-1992

 RED/WHI/BLK \$200	 BLK/RED \$250	 BLK/BLUE \$300
 RED/WHI/BLK \$200	 WHI/BLUE \$200	 WHI/BLK \$200
 "23" RED/WHI/BLK \$200	 RED/BLK \$150	 WHI/PURPLE \$150
 RED/WHI \$150	 BLK/RED \$125	 WHI/BLUE \$100
 OLYMPIC \$150	 RED/WHI \$100	 GREY/BLK \$75

WANTED USED AIR JORDAN BASKETBALL SHOES 1985-1992
WILL PAY \$75-\$300 EACH
Must be in good/very good condition.
Sizes 7.5-10.5 only.

As one of the country's most experienced buyers of vintage clothing and sneakers, we know what it's worth and we'll pay you for it!

TEN BEARS VINTAGE CLOTHING CO.
1-800-787-8358

STORY AND PHOTOS LEANN BROWN

There's a lot that can make us afraid in the world. Not afraid of spiders or of, say, flying, but afraid of ourselves, afraid to tap into our true nature, and to recognize our own worth.

At the Fearlessness Centre in Calgary art making is a tool of healing, of fighting fear. It's a place where people find a healing path back to the self. The founders, Robert Fisher and Barbara Bickel, are both artists, so it's natural that one of the most powerful tools they've developed they call "spontaneous creation making". It's just one of six vaccines against fear that have been developed at the Centre over the last five and half years. The spontaneous creation making tool often kick-starts a reconnection to the self and it's a comfortable way to start the healing process. Many artists and injured creators heal enough to one day show their work in the Centre Gallery. As part of the Fearlessness Centre, the Centre Gallery is a safe place for new artists to explore their work and continue their healing path.

Through the spontaneous creation making, healing and reasserting your true self becomes as easy as child's play, says Barbara Bickel, the Gallery's curator. It's a "reconnection with the natural expressive part of yourself in a playful and healing context," she says. She believes that spontaneous creation making heals because, "you can't do anything wrong. It's an opportunity to express and play." People drop-in and pay by donation, they are introduced to the concept, and then spend half an hour creating. The group then comes together to pay attention to one another. Unconditional attention promotes spontaneous healing. Paying attention is non-judgmental support, not criticism.

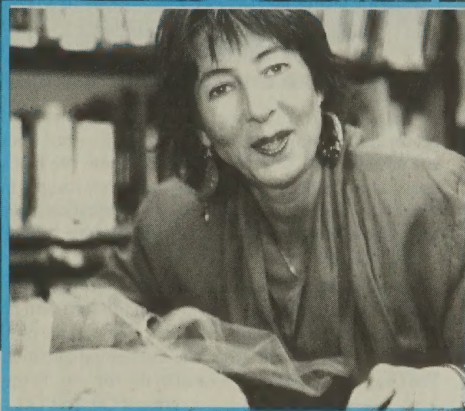
From that first good feeling about being creative, to a first showing at the Centre Gallery, the positive feedback, attention and caring bring many people out of isolation, and back to their creative selves.

To find our true nature, one that is brilliant, creative, cooperative, and caring, we must recognize that we are coping with life—not living it, says Barbara. Reconnecting leads us to creative, fulfilling, cooperative, community-based and caring lives. When we can see our real value we can live without being afraid.

Even though she has the formal training, Joy Ann W. Macleod no longer calls herself an artist. Instead she calls herself a creator. Her healing journey began with spontaneous creation making. In the spring of 1996, she found her artwork unfulfilling. At her first spontaneous creation workshop, she made a small doll which excited her. Her creativity was rekindled and her new work is more satisfying as it comes from "the inside out". She sees the Centre and the Gallery as safe places to rediscover her authentic self and to voice herself. Another important healing aspect is the focus on the act of creativity, not the product. Joy believes, "if it's from the heart, it is appropriate and artistic."

What would you see if you paid attention?

Healing the inner self through art



*Madelaine J. Koss, left and
Joy Ann W. MacLeod with "Dollmaking", above
Background: detail of "to dream a good dream"
by Joy Ann W. MacLeod*

Joy has pieces showing in the upcoming Honouring Gaia show and she is facilitating her own doll-making workshop, "In the palm of your hand". As a mother of three sons, she sees her creativity as fundamental to being a good mother. She says that if she didn't have that outlet, she wouldn't have harmony in her home. With her work and her outlook, Joy is smashing the stereotype of the artist, while healing and learning to live fearlessly.

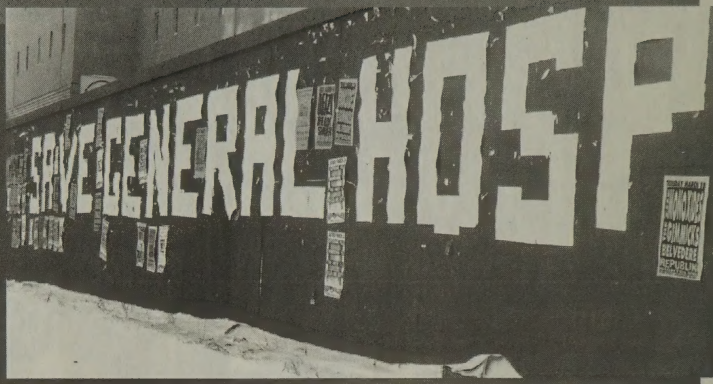
The Centre's new director, Madelaine J. Koss, came through the spontaneous creation making door four years ago. Like many participants she was going through a life transition. After working for Esso for 21 years, she was "restructured" out of a job. One day she found herself holding a spontaneous creation making brochure. "It didn't say you had to be an artist. If it had, I would never have come." Without a job she didn't know who she was. "I couldn't see my own beauty." From spontaneous

creation making to peer counselling to intentional community building, Madelaine has healed her way to becoming a facilitator for many of the Fearlessness Centre programs, and into the position as the Centre's Director.

"Yarrow," the piece she is pictured with, symbolizes a personal revelation. Before the piece she saw herself simply as a house-cleaner. Finding the deer and incorporating it into her piece connected her to the grace and beauty of the deer, and the need to pay attention to everything from the texture of the stone to the broken hoof. This identification with the deer helped her reclaim her true nature. She now realizes her worth and she has a job that fulfills her. "I refuse to work at things that don't light me," she says. Her connection to her inner self is strong and allows her the room to take risks and chances in her art. She will also be part of Honouring Gaia and her exploration of performance art is another part of her healing.

Up and running since the fall of 1995 the Centre Gallery works on "expanding the audience's understanding of the artist's process by inviting them into opening rituals, artist talks, on-site creating, performance art, poetry readings, dancing and musical concerts." The emphasis is on the artist and creating community. Another focus is on breaking down the isolation artists face. One way of counteracting this isolation is to make the act of "hanging a show" a group activity, a time of connection and a celebration. Opening the show to the public, and offering artists talks further weaves artists into their community's fabric. The upcoming show, Honouring Gaia, a Female Tribute of Mother Earth, looks at healing spiritual wounds and reconnecting with Mother Earth. The show runs from March 24 to May 2 with the Opening on April 5, 1-4 pm and an Artist's Talk at 2 pm. The Centre Gallery is located on the second floor, 924 6 Ave. SW, Calgary.

Controversy around closing Calgary's downtown hospital



BY K. REICH

"Smiley" doesn't project his voice very loudly—you have to lean in closely to hear him over the mid-morning hum of congregated people at the Calgary Drop-In Centre.

"Nicholas is my real name," Smiley says in his whispery voice, smiling shyly. He may be in his 50s—it's hard to tell. His hair is balding at the front, long and stringy-dirty at the back. He's in a wheelchair, with a plastic leg brace on the chair beside him.

"But Smiley's what they call me now."

This is not a man you'd expect to tell you much regarding the fight for Calgary's Bow Valley Centre—a fight seemingly lost before it began, although sporadic sparring has continued across boardroom tables and political platforms for the past 3 years.

Smiley'll just tell you he went to the General Hospital 2 or 3 weeks ago because he split his knee. He'll be in a wheelchair for 6 weeks, and he says the brace is so his leg doesn't get stiff. He looks worried for a moment and hopes in a whisper that he'll walk again. Then he smiles.

"But it hardly hurts anymore." This, according to Smiley, is "because hospitals have the facilities and know what kind of treatment to give." So maybe Smiley knows more about what's in store, and what's at stake, regarding health service downtown than most Calgarians.

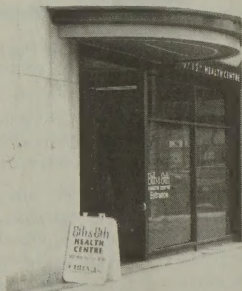
By the end of April, the Bow Valley Centre (still known to many as Calgary General Hospital) will be functionally closed. No emergency services will be available there after April 8th. The closure of the Bow Valley Centre, and of the Holy Cross Hospital before it, mean that Calgary will become one of the only cities in Canada without a downtown hospital.

The Calgary Regional Health Authority has decided the hospital is too expensive to operate and maintain, and that the health needs of the people living in the downtown area can be just as adequately served with a 24-hour walk-in clinic.

Yet, as with any city's inner core population, these are the people dealing with more than their share of mental health and poverty issues, like drug and alcohol abuse, physical and sexual abuse, hunger, and neglect. Their streets harbour most of the city's dangerous sub-cultures, the prostitution and drug trade, street gangs and punks. Many people living here can't even afford a bus pass.

Nevertheless, the 8th and 8th Health Centre officially opened March 17th, 1997. Built at a cost of \$700,000 it is an ultra modern, 11-thousand square foot, 24-hour care centre designed to deal with only non-life-threatening conditions.

The Centre is conveniently located in the city core, in the free zone of Calgary's LRT system. There's free short-term parking in the parkade, and 24-hour security at the clinic door.



A patient who may not even need to see a doctor can be processed with on-site referral to support services such as home care, public health, mental health, and physiotherapy, depending upon the hour of the day. The

largest area of the clinic, this space has the capacity to accommodate a family practice, or other primary care service, as future needs may require.

A patient requiring minor medical attention may be shown to an eye, nose, and throat treatment room, a casting/suturing room, one of two observation beds, or the "quiet" room set aside for those requiring additional privacy. Along with 2 nurses, a physician is on site 24 hours.

But if a patient walks in requiring emergency treatment, all staff can do is call and try to keep the person stabilized until the ambulance arrives.

The 8th and 8th solution is a model of health care that emphasizes education and wellness. And while no one would

argue the value of pro-active over re-active health service, the idea of replacing the city's number one trauma centre with this centre isn't sitting well with a lot of people for a lot of reasons.

Shirley Anne Rueben is spokesperson for the Inner City Health Coalition, which in turns speaks for 38 communities in the wider downtown area.

"Maybe it looks good on paper, but it doesn't make sense."

For example, Ms Rueben points out that 71 percent of the "lights and sirens" calls, and 19 percent of lesser emergency calls reported by Calgary Emergency Services, came from the inner city—a significant percentage considering the area has less than an eighth of the city's population.

Tom Rich, a doctor in the Emergency at the Bow Valley, maintains that 24 hour clinics belong in the suburbs, where people are relatively young and healthy to begin with. Because many people in the downtown core have "extended, chronic, severe problems" (like drug addictions and complications from AIDS) which can potentially get real bad, real fast.

"It just makes sense to put your resources where you need them."

Considering that the population in the downtown area is expected to see significant growth within the next few years (and that the area will always see a large, if temporary, influx of people during major public events like the Stampede, the World Police and Fire Games, even Expo 2005) it's easy to appreciate why people like Debbie Newman, Client Services Coordinator for the Calgary Drop-In Society, question the viability of the Health Centre, which anticipates serving only 17,000 people a year.

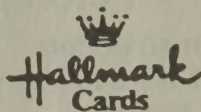
"They may find themselves in a position where they can't handle the number of people walking in there."

The burden of handling the numbers will also fall on Calgary Emergency Medical Services. Patients arriving at the Health Centre who require emergency care will have to be transferred to a nearby hospital. Dave Lowery, spokesperson for Calgary EMS, anticipates no effect on current response times (an impressive 90% of which fall within the industry standard of 8 minutes or less), but grants that there may be an effect on transport times.

Another big problem is the \$225 fee for an ambulance ride. In most cases, the user pays 40% of it, while the City of Calgary pays the rest. The 40% fee is not covered by Alberta Health Care, even presuming a patient has it. Thus, inner city users without alternative transportation will need cash or insurance just to be able to pay to get to a hospital.

What the downtown health service restructuring may ultimately cost us remains to be seen. While the 90 percent of area residents who remain opposed to closing the Bow Valley can only cross their fingers and hope their fears of death and disaster are unfounded, the CRHA sails boldly into the brave new world of education-oriented, wellness-driven health care, done up in soothing colors of pink and mauve.

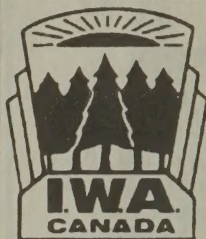
What's that you say, Smiley? You'll have to speak up—no one can hear you.



"Congratulations
on your
3rd Anniversary"

Southgate Mall
51 Avenue and 111 Street
Edmonton, AB
434-1549

Heritage Mall
2323-11 Street,
Edmonton, AB
988-6962



Industrial, Wood
& Allied Workers
of Canada

Affiliated with the CLC
Local 1-207
4262-91 A Street
Edmonton, AB T6E 5V2
463-9070 Fax: 461-5020



Registered Angora Breeding Stock

John & Laura Lee Henderson
RR#1, Innisfail, AB Phone 728 -3488

BURNHAM

Burnham (Canada) Ltd.
4040-98 Street
Edmonton, AB
T6E 3L3

TEL: (403) 463-8800
FAX: (403) 450-6573



12030 Fort Road
Edmonton, AB
T5B 4H1

403 413-0773
Fax 413-0774



Construction at its Best!

Since 1906

Calgary Denver Edmonton Fort Lauderdale Los Angeles Mexico City Minneapolis Orlando Ottawa
Phoenix Regina San Diego San Francisco Saskatoon Seattle Toronto Vancouver Winnipeg Yellowknife

PCL family of companies



FUNERAL

CHAPEL LTD.

THE • CHAPEL • IN • THE • PARK

16204 Fort Road, Edmonton, Alberta
Phone (403) 472-9019

**Happy 3rd Year
All the Best in the Future!**

C.W. Eavestrough Ltd.
9404-58 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
436-1100



NIGHTHAWK Manufacturing Inc.
"Your One Stop Cushion Shop"

Electronic Heat Sealing • Quality Wheelchair Upholstery
Cushions and Accessories

#2-51331 Range Road 224
Sherwood Park, AB
Canada T8C 1H3

Phone (403) 922-4882
Fax (403) 922-4451
1-800-661-6247

Robert M. Kassian B.A., L.L.B.

24 Hour Legal Assistance

Free Initial Consultation
General Practice/Criminal law
Family • Divorce • Custody

Evening & Weekend Appointments Available

944-9007

7904-103 St. Old Strathcona Square



Talking Back

**FRANK
GETS A LOT!**

I've been buying your paper for the past couple of months and I'd like to comment on a recent article, *Talking Frank*, in the February issue.

It seemed the tone was Frank has received a lot and he's owed a lot. But it's never really mentioned that society is never given any credit for all the help society has given him. He's had numerous operations. He's been hospitalized. He takes medications, which because he's on welfare, he gets for free. The whole tone of it was, give him more. There comes a point where you have to do something for yourself.

I enjoy your newspaper, I don't agree with a lot of things in it, but I definitely enjoy reading it.

Gary Vice

**I LIKE NEWS
OF THE
WORLD**

I'm just sitting here on a Sunday looking through the February issue and wanted to call to say how much I enjoy it.

I particularly enjoy the *News of the World* excerpts from the English street paper.

I also found very moving the beautiful article written by Bobbie King. It was sad

Call us with your comments.

Leave a message at

1-800-882-5954

or 424-0624 in Edmonton.

Write us a letter or send
e-mail to: sparechg@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

but very poignant as well.

I'd love to be able to help out. I think you are providing a very valuable voice for people who need to be heard.

Naeem Rauf

**GREAT
MAUDE
ISSUE**

I'm phoning to commend you on the March issue with Maude Barlow on the cover. I read it cover to cover and it's a very good newspaper and I thank you for publishing it. You're doing a great job.

Betty Graham

**THIS IS
GARBAGE**

I like to buy the magazine. I give a fair amount of money to support the people. But in the November issue on the second page there was a paragraph about a tattoo. I was surprised to see something like that there. You have to decide who your audience is and who you are writing for. Keep it so people aren't offended. This is garbage and I won't buy this.

Anonymous

"Get it Here!"

Throughout the world, street vending is an integral, important part of everyday life for the average person. There are street vendors in Ireland, in Mozambique, in the Philippines, and in China. In the early days, street vendors sold the Calgary Herald. My father wanted to be one when he grew up. He spent days practising the call, "Herrrrrrald, get it here. Get yer Herrrrrrald. Get it here!" Vendors have been replaced by vending machines. The kind that eat your coins and are cranky if opened too quickly. So in my new position here as Assistant Editor, I got to thinking about how we view street vendors, what makes us comfortable buying and what we don't like about it.

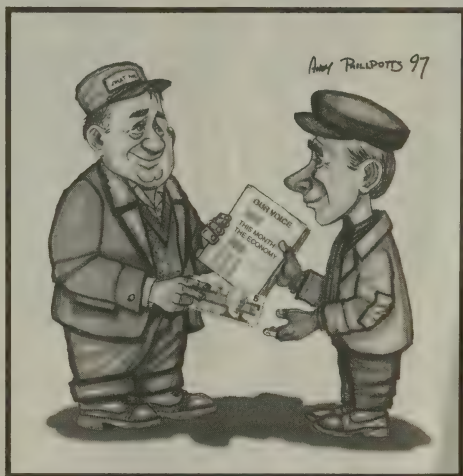
April 1997 - Calgary, Alberta...

Today, in the land of concrete and money, the street vendor is rarely seen. We've built walls, roofs and doors and tinted windows to contain the acts of consumerism and commerce. But those street vendors—they bring it to our attention. They remind us that people buy things from other people. And on the street. Gasps!

What is it that bothers us so much? Is it the street aspect? Is it the lack of a formal security buzzer heralding our grandiose entrance into a comfortably furnished den, where the periodic hiss of an aromatic lure brings in customers like sharks to chum? Maybe we can't deal with the act of opening our wallet, where everyone will see what it contains; your driver's license photograph, all the fortune cookies you've ever opened, or the Mood Indicator card you carry for the moments you are so desensitized as to wonder how awful you really feel? Could our discomfort be the result of the dehumanizing rut we climb into and luge down everytime we use an automated bank teller, order that burger through the drive-thru speaker? Have we "progressed" so far that we come all undone when faced with dealing with another human being face to face, during the intimate act of buying a paper?

Well, I'm not sure...

There are days that I do approach the flower seller in the street and buy the daisies and snapdragons and ferns. And I do so because I enjoy the interaction, the act of exchanging cash for a product, a product that tells me something about a type of life I am privileged enough to not live, a product that makes the difference whether this vendor, and sometimes the vendor's family, benefits, moves on, eats, sleeps in a warm place. I don't get that in department stores, or convenience stores, or fast food chains. Sometimes it's awkward. Sometimes it's witty. Always it's about two human beings and the weather.



OUR VOICE: HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

And yet...

When I buy, why do I buy? I really need that product in my life? Sure, like toilet paper, toothpaste, Earl Grey tea. I want to help someone who is in a position to benefit from my purchase? Yes, and this is something new to me. I buy from the Global Village Gift Shop, The Body Shop, and the Arusha Centre because I know my cash makes its way into some else's pocket. A real someone else, a someone like me, trying to get by, not decided what colour of BMW to purchase next. I want my purchases to make an impact outside of me.

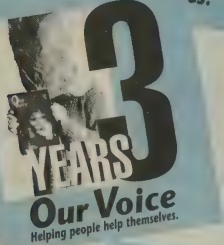
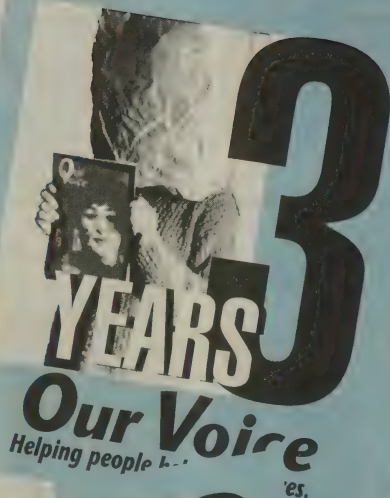
So what am I saying?

Street vendors buy **Our Voice** magazine at a set price. They are self-employed people who come from many places and circumstances. It is their choice to sell the magazine, and how many papers to sell. The magazine is sold by donation. Sometimes more than vendors pay for the paper, sometimes less. Some are long-term vendors, some are short-term. They are not standing there to be harassed, or ignored, nor are they trying to intrude on your space. They have a code of conduct they vow to work by. They deal with good and bad weather, heavy and light foot traffic, and hours of standing. They aren't the first street vendors to walk the earth. They will not be the last. It's a time-honored profession. It's an opportunity to regain some financial independence and stability. It's a forum to tell their stories. It's a good buy.

LeAnn Brown

Who is that faceless person?

After three years of a street-sold publication are vendors invisible people?



A hectic and exciting three years as a publication has seen a lot of changes for **Our Voice**. It's been a steady evolution of a young publication finding its niche, a brand new market in a publication sold on the street to supportive people.

World-wide, street-sold newspapers and magazines are quite a phenomenon, and they seem to be one in Western Canada too.

"Did I really think we'd still be here doing this, three years ago when we started?" muses Gord Poschwatta. "I don't really know."

Poschwatta was hired by two inner city agencies to bring the Spare Change newspaper to Edmonton initially, and then to Calgary as well. At first copies of the Vancouver-produced Spare Change were sold by needy people, starting in 1993. Then Gord collaborated with Vancouver editor Michael Murphy to include some Alberta pages in the newspaper.

Gord took the project on as a crusade. He worked with each of the vendors so the project could help them. In 1994 the sales of the publication had risen so much, Gord moved to produce an Alberta edition of Spare

Change, completely edited and printed in Alberta. He hired Keith Wiley to edit and in April of 1994, the first Alberta edition of Spare Change came out.

The new Alberta-produced publication drew even more public attention, and well over 100 people were out selling the newspaper.

The vendors are the focus of the whole effort. The founding principle is to give them a means to make some money, a livelihood, by their own efforts. Poschwatta was clear about meeting the people who might need to sell the magazine on their own territory. He wanted to offer them the opportunity without trying to judge or reform them. The guidelines about selling the magazine politely and sober are clear and enforced as much as possible, but beyond that the vendors are their own bosses, self-employed entrepreneurs. The longer they work, and the better they work, the more money they make from supportive customers.

In 1995, there was steady sales growth for the publication and we began seriously approaching advertisers who could benefit from public-spirited notices in the newspaper. Editorially, the newspaper began to find its feet, focussing on the stories of the people who sell the

Selling a magazine on a street corner can make you feel like an invisible person. What is Our Voice? Who sells it? After 3 years, we report:

magazine and their community. With a mix of fiction, poetry, some commentary and cartoons, the newspaper developed an interested group of customers.

The vendors wanted to see the publication improve, and their main priority was more frequent publication, so the buyers could have a new magazine more often. In 1996 Spare Change moved to twice a month publication, a big step up in commitment, as the publishing costs nearly doubled. The advertising efforts continued as we cut our teeth, and learned that not everyone always pays.

Also early in 1996, when concerns were expressed about the Spare Change name, and its overtones of begging, it seemed natural to move to the name **Our Voice**, a newspaper for and from the people who sell it. The name change proved a difficult shift, however, as three years of public identity as Spare Change stuck.

Through last year it also became apparent that the sales growth could not sustain the costs of twice a month publication and, never afraid to change, **Our Voice** moved to a monthly magazine format.

There have been over a thousand different people selling the publication in Edmonton, Calgary, and to a lesser extent in

Saskatoon and Winnipeg. For most of them, street-selling was a stop gap measure as they moved on, some of them to good jobs. Others have made selling **Our Voice** a vocation and have been selling it for nearly three years. The freedom of setting your own hours and working for yourself has appealed to them. More important, however, is the lack of other opportunities for people. The regular job market just isn't an option for many vendors who are seen to be unemployable for many different reasons. Many vendors use selling to augment tight incomes from disability pensions, or welfare payments that are too small to survive on.

Steady as she goes... holding the course...

After a turbulent childhood, **Our Voice** appears to be ready to follow a steady course, to develop in quality and strive to build the base of customers who are supportive of the vendors. The novelty of a street-sold publication is wearing off, but the sales are still strong. The magazine is entering its fourth year, which will be a decisive year for **Our Voice**. It will determine if we can provide a long-term working alternative for vendors and people in need of some spare change.

Keith Wiley, Editor

Sonias Grocery



Box 539, Hobbema, Alberta
T0C 1N0
Tel (403) 585-2032
Fax (403) 585-2359
Another Samson Management Project

Congratulations Our Voice on 3 Years!

R. Pearson
Inc.
AUTO TRANSPORT
Serving
Alta • Sask • Man.
Daily Service To Calgary & Edmonton
Fax 465-0355
465-0333

Spruce Grove Sporting Goods

Phone: 962-5237
Fax: 962-1039

Compliments of Dale

*A Caring Member of the Community!
Compliments of The Management & Staff*

Stony Motor Inn

- 48 Air Conditioned Rooms
- Licensed Restaurant • Lounge
- Banquet Facilities

4620 - 48 Street, Stony Plain, AB.
963-3444

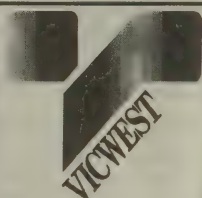
GUNN & PRITHIPAL

WILL APPEAR ANYWHERE IN:
Alta - Sask - N.W.T.

Criminal Law

24 hours:
403-488-4460

Suite 220, 9707 - 110th Street,
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2L9



13056-Yellowhead Trail
Edmonton, AB T5L 3C1
(403) 454-4477

We Care About Our Kids Future In Our Community!

KELD TRANSPORT LTD.

Local Dairy Transporters
"STAY HEALTHY & DRINK
MILK!"

23232 HWY. 14 Sherwood Park, AB.
467-3312

We Care About Our Kids Future In Our Community!

TRAC ENGINE SERVICES LTD.

Engine Machine Shop & Rebuilder
Cylinder Heads - Cast Repairs
Blocks, Crank Shafts, Conrods &
Engine Parts, Gas & Diesel

11235 - 154 St., Edmonton, AB.
452-2035

Too Hot? Be Kool Mayfield Radiator Repair

*All Aspects of Radiator Repair
Big or Small, Give Us a Call*

Rick Koch
16633 - 114 Ave. Edmonton, AB

454-5867

Best wishes on your 3rd Anniversary!
Keep up the good work!

26 years in Alberta!

L & T Mix

SAND AND GRAVEL LTD.

L & T Mix Sand & Gravel Ltd., 2nd Floor, 8020 - 50th St., Leduc, AB T9E 7G3

Phone (403) 986-6721 After hours (403) 986-1890

PROUD TO SERVICE CLIENTELE

First
Nations
Insurance
Services Ltd.



A 100% Indian
Owned Brokerage
Company in
Operation Since
1987

FIRST NATIONS INSURANCE

2300-10th Ave. West (P.O. Box 2377 - S6V 6Z1) Prince Albert, Sask.
Tel: (306) 763-4712 Fax: (306) 763-3255 Toll Free 1-800-667-4712

CONTACT:

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT'S AGENT

ALBERTA IRRIGATION SUPPLY LTD.

A S

Authorized Distributor for Alberta

We carry a complete line of underground irrigation
equipment for **RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL & GOLF**

Call or visit our distribution center for **ALL YOUR GROWING NEEDS**

16030 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5V 1C5

PHONE 453-5950

'BECAUSE GREEN is the NAME of the GAME'

RAIN BIRD.

since 1933

Congratulations **Our Voice** on your 3rd Anniversary!

LEANNE M. CHAHLEY

— LABOUR LAW —

Toll Free 1-800-689-1930

Phone **423-3433** • Fax 425-6448

1700 - 10130 - 103 St., Edmonton

**WCB/ LONG TERM
DISABILITY CLAIMANTS**

Have you been -

• **Refused** coverage

• **Cut off** benefits

• **Denied** a proper pension

Program available for affordable representation

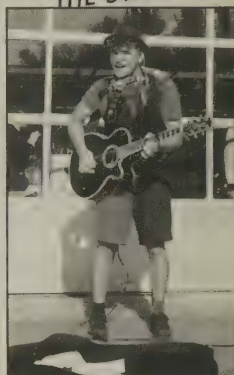
GOLDFORD DER
LAW OFFICES 482-1000

**WORDS ON
THE STREET**

Dreaming of summer

Remember when you could actually walk outside without a coat, boots, and other winter paraphernalia? Can you believe it's been six months of this winter "wonderland"? For those of you who are becoming disheartened, there is hope. One way you can experience this is to visit the local farmers' markets. The bulbs are bursting with spring-like colours, and the variety of goodies to sample, along with the free entertainment, makes this a fun, inexpensive family outing for all of you who are feeling those winter blues or just plain old blahs!

Story and photo by Heather Slade



*Four year-old
Riley finds a safe
place too.*



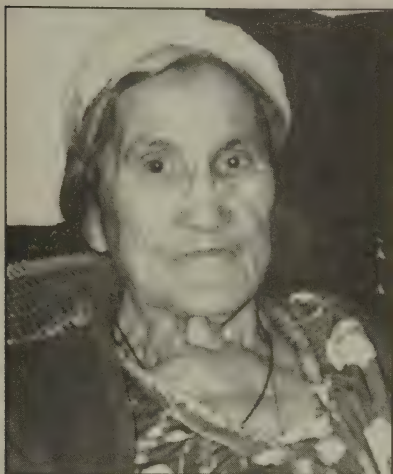
A safe place

This is a thank you letter to the staff of the Bissell Centre who provide a place just for women to rest, visit and have coffee. Some of us women who have been abused by men need a place to feel safe away from the clamor of the basement drop-in.

Myself, I've used this space to meet new friends, use the courtesy phone to make important calls, sleep when home was too lonely, and wait for my medication to take effect while I calmed down after a panic attack.

No one judges me. No one looks down on me, because here I am allowed to be me. I'm allowed to be needy or lonely or "confused" and still I can rest.

Heather Slade



Alice Shaw

September 12, 1908–March 3, 1997

Street Mom passes away

Alice Shaw's memory will be cherished by the many members of her family. She raised a very large family—17 children. She had 14 of her own children, plus she was good-hearted enough to raise three more, two of which were her grandchildren. She was a very hard worker while raising all of her children in Canyon Creek. She survived by taking in laundry—washing and ironing for people in the community. She worked on mink farms, pelting minks. She did housework for others to help feed and clothe her family. She always welcomed strangers into her home, especially the homeless with nowhere to go. She would always find a bed for them somewhere in her home. She loved music. She loved to dance and sang a lot. Christmas was a special time in Alice's house. All the family gathered around for a special feast that she prepared. She had so much love for everyone and anyone who was a part of her life. She will be missed.

by Jacqueline Fiddler

A case of mistaken identity

One Sunday while walking towards my favourite ice cream hang-out on Jasper Avenue I noticed two police cars with their red and blue rooftop authority lights blazing, one close behind the other, rushing past to pull up at the next corner.

...continued

Sound the Alarm

Your smoke alarm gives you a fighting chance to escape fire in your home. Be sure it's working.

Clean and vacuum at least twice a year...and put it to the test regularly:

Light a candle; blow it out and let the smoke drift into the alarm. The alarm will sound... unless there's a power supply problem, or it needs repair or replacement.

Sound advice for fire prevention.

For more information phone us at:
403 427-8392 Fax 403 427-5898

Alberta
Labour
Fire Commissioner's Office



One-Stop Earth and Environmental Consulting Services Worldwide

- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Environmental Audit
- Soil & Groundwater Remediation
- Waste Management
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Indoor Air
- Air Quality Assessments
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Soils & Materials Testing
- Environmental Site Assessments
- Contaminant Assessments
- Public Participation
- Hydrogeology
- Asbestos
- Socio-economical Assessments
- Analytical Chemistry
- Environmental Chemistry
- Materials Engineering



AGRA
Earth & Environmental

CALGARY

Phone: 248-4331

Fax: 248-2188

221 - 18 St. S.E.,

Calgary, AB T2E 6J5

EDMONTON

Phone: 436-2152

Fax: 435-8425

4810-93 Street,

Edmonton, AB T6E 5M4

Our warmest hello to all our brothers and sisters across the nation

A message from Chief Abraham Hunter,
Members & Elders of



Weenusk First Nation

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
P.O. Box 1 Peawanuck, ON P0L 2H0

Phone (705) 473-2554 Fax (705) 473-2503



**THANK YOU
from**

**Laurie
Blakeman**

Your M.L.A. for
Edmonton Centre



Telephone: 482-5826

Fax: 482-2750

Our Creator gave us the greatest gift, Life!
Let's not abuse it with drugs and alcohol.

•Drug & Alcohol
Abuse•
•Anger Therapy •
•Inner Child
Discovery•
•Co-Dependency
(306) 468-2072
Fax: (306) 468-2758
Box 340, Canwood,
Saskatchewan S0J 0K0

**CREE
NATIONS
TREATMENT
HAVEN**



Enter to Win a Free Tank of Gas

Every month UNITED GAS will be drawing for a Free Tank of gas.

Just fill in your name and phone number every time you get a
minimum \$20 gas purchase and you could be a WINNER!



**UNITED
GAS** Jesse Hull
Telephone: 454-2414
Cellular: 975-0149
1445 Yellowhead Trail
Edmonton, Alberta T5L 3C5

UNITED GAS

WORDS ON THE STREET

I briskly walked up the block to
see what the commotion was about.

To my amazement, the excitement was about my middle-
aged native friend Joe, who was wobbling up the sidewalk like
a six-foot human tower. Joe looked half out of it and had
obviously been at a party on the town.

Three officers, a woman and two men, got out to confront
my friend. They slowly formed a circle around him, smiling
cynically.

"So you've been drinking. What's wrong? Having a diffi-
cult time standing?" asked one officer. The mocking officer
looked over at the others and they all grinned.

Joe became enraged and his street-smart, laid back behav-
iour changed tune. He snapped out:

"Why don't you guys leave me alone. I'm not bothering
anyone."

I was appalled by the unnecessary actions of the officers
and, concerned about Joe's safety, I intervened,

"I know this gentleman. He's well natured and doesn't
bother people."

"And who are you?" The officers seemed infuriated by my
intervention.

"My name is John Zapantis, and I'm a reporter for **Our
Voice**," I replied.

"So what?" said one officer, obviously unimpressed by my
status.

That didn't stop me:

"I know Mayor Bill Smith and if you guys don't leave my
friend alone, you'll be visiting him personally regarding this
matter," I said.

This didn't seem to impress them either.

"I know him too," quipped the officer. "I went to school
with his son."

The radio from the first police car called out and the
woman went to answer it. She rushed back saying the real
suspect was barricaded at a Mac's store, half a block up the
street.

They rushed off and I realized that this was a case of mis-
taken identity. However, I thought the officers' actions toward
my friend Joe were inappropriate and uncalled for.

by John Zapantis

Vendor looking for housework

Calgary vendor Lorna Scrambler has been unable to work
at selling the magazine in the cold weather. She is looking for
work doing housekeeping. She works well with seniors, and
has worked with Calgary Social Services in the past.

Please call Lorna at 237-7420.

POETRY

The Weather

If my city
were to declare its sex
on a form like the
government makes us do

I think it should call itself a
"transvestite."

One face-warm womanly
chinook.
One face-old man winter.

Muttering, he hangs around.
Handsome features
sculptured in the snow.
Hard raspy voice.
Tired of wearing so many
layers,
undresses....

Giving way to slinky
colors blending, teasing.
She's summer's younger
cousin
peeking through the
mountains.
Playing with the sky.
Stretching, melting, making
muck.

The old guy, jealous,
shows up again, often at
night.
Smoking his cigars, you can
see his breath.
He's wheezing now,
but won't let go.

He just changes his clothes.

by Marilyn Brown.

Lost

He wheeled along,
a silhouette of a man,
less a leg, but no less a man.
A shadow crying for attention
without shedding a tear,
or uttering a word.
His soul like a small cast iron
ball.
Impermeable to pain, and all
the love is trapped on the out-
side.

He sits quiet,
the cold wind blowing his long
grey hair.
His hard eyes peer at the world
going on around him,
without him.
He weaves his own existence
into a bitter knot.
He puffs on his own cigarette.
Calm, the smoke envelops
him,
and within his burning world
he is lost,
and then he is forgotten.

by Michael Walters

To

Dark as drying blood.
Raging with the dead.
Thoughts of courage of simple
men.

I chased my fate.
Left them wretched and sink-
ing.
While eunuchs scoffed and
scribbled.
Looking to their comfort.

by Tom MacKaye

Our Voice welcomes your poetry. Keep your own copy, as we
cannot return submissions. Poetry editor: Michael Walters.

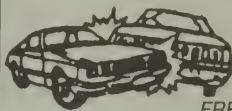
Our Voice

Sprout Farms


FRUIT TREE NURSERY
Alberta's Fruit Tree Specialist

LOCATED 30 MINUTES NORTH OF EDMONTON
ON HWY 28 NEAR BON ACCORD
THEN 2 KM NORTH ON LILLY LAKE ROAD
PH (403) 921-3460

Galaxy Auto Body Ltd.



Frame Straightening
Painting • Collision Repairs
Open Mon. - Fri.

FREE ESTIMATE ON REQUEST

7117 Argyll Rd. N.W., Edmonton, AB. **468-3066**



**GRB VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL OF WELDING**

Courses

Beginner - Mild Steel
Journeyman - Stainless
CWB - Chrome
"B" Pressure - Incomel
G.T.A.W. - Aluminum
G.M.A.W. - Upgrading

Hourly Practice

436-7342

9712 - 54 Ave., Edmonton

Westmount

**7 AFTERNOONS (11:30)
EVENINGS (5:30)**

**LETTER w/\$100
FREE GAME**

50 Game Go-Go 2 Bonanzas
*S.E.B's * 1 Odd/Even

PLAY SATELLITE
BINGO
HERE!

Safety, Pride & Reliability

Petro Well Servicing

1440, 700 - 4th Ave S.W.
Calgary, AB. T2P 3J4



Calgary 263-2811
Red Deer (24 hrs) 347-9945

We are the mainstay of this province A conference on the feminization of poverty

by Dale Ladouceur and Kirby

Organized by the Edmonton Working Women (EWW), this recent conference in Edmonton tackled the complex issues of poverty with a variety of speakers, workshops and panel discussions. The 'feminization of poverty' describes the devastating effects of current social, economic and political trends on women (and their children) who are living below the poverty line. In Alberta, 42 percent of Social Service recipients are single parent families and 82 percent of those are single mothers. Also, 68 percent of single mothers live below the poverty line and 47 percent of single women over the age of 65 are poor.

These facts and many more were outlined in a pamphlet included in a package given conference attendees. Other documentation included "The Tough Times Handbook 1996", "Women On The Move (a guide to political participation)" and a report by the Alberta Status Of Women Action Committee entitled "Women Against Poverty". The organizers, realizing the only way to cause change is by direct involvement, were really promoting a hands-on approach to activism.

"Just because the Klein government stops providing programs and services, the work doesn't go away," Linda Trimbell, a political scientist at the University of Alberta told the conference. "The work is still being done, a lot of the caregiving and teaching and community support work is now being done by women, for free, because we care about the people in this province," she said. "If we don't do the work, just for one day, it will become abundantly clear that we are the pillars of the economy in Alberta. We are the mainstay of this province; we deserve justice and respect and we deserve to have **Our Voices** heard," she said.

The main focus of the EWW organization is as a resource centre, plus a source of assistance and support for women. "We have a hotline that we operate that helps people either by referring them to who can help them or seeing them through work related problems like discrimination or harassment," says Mimi Williams of EWW, and the conference organizer. "What we're going to find in the next little while is more coalition building than anything else because we need to develop some strategies."

A transcription of the workshops and panel discussions from the conference is in the works. "We will then be forwarding this to all levels of government and certainly sharing it with other groups and agencies in town. Then from there we can focus on building networks and sharing info," says Williams. "It's important (because agencies are so stretched right now both for bodies and money) so I think we need to see a lot more co-operation. There is also no point in people repeating work. Funding structures and amounts are really changing, so trying to help each other and work together will maximize our impact," Williams said.

For information on the Feminization of Poverty Conference transcripts, or further information on Edmonton Working Women, phone 429-3370 or fax 425-3293.

TOPIC: Women

Through the eyes of women conference

by Linda Dumont

An Aboriginal women's drum group opened the second annual Alberta Through the Eyes of Women Conference at the U of A. The eight women from the Meskahnaw Society first sang a song calling for directions from grandmothers and grandfathers for help, then a horse dance song and last a song in which they were giving all of their burdens to a higher power.

"When did we stop believing that we were capable of setting up our own system?" said Joanne Grumley-Pompano who spoke on aboriginal women and the law. She spoke of the changes during the last two hundred years from being woman-centered to male-centered in aboriginal communities.

"We need reality checks," she said. "With the desire to create healthy families and healthy communities we need publicly-funded daycares so that unhealthy relationships can be stopped, so that a woman can be an independent human being, and if she has a relationship that's a bonus."

Muriel Stanley-Venne from the Western Aboriginal Development Alliance also spoke. "My perspective has taught me that aboriginal women have no power, are survivors, are creative, are



TOP: The Meskanow women's drum group opened the Through the eyes of women conference.

LEFT: Speaker Maude Barlow called Ralph Klein a liar.

FAR LEFT: Joanne Grumley-Pompano reviewed changes for aboriginal women over the last two hundred years.



under attack, are left out, and are educated but don't get hired. We need other women to forge ahead." She read a headline: "Almost 500 Aboriginal Women Lost", and talked about the large number of women missing since 1983 and whom no one is even looking for. Headline: "Indian Women are the Most Vulnerable in Canada" Stanley-Venne read the list of names of aboriginal women who died violently, many were teenagers.

Cathy Lewis from the Canadian Parole Board spoke of the mediation model approach to justice, a model borrowed from the aborigines of Australia. In this model the offender and the victim are brought together in a healing circle. "I see healing taking place," Lewis said, "Maybe someday we can empty those jails." At present, between forty and sixty percent of the jail population is aboriginal.

"**R**alph Klein lied. There never was a financial deficit that made cutbacks necessary. Subsidies for large corporations were responsible for the debt," Maude Barlow told the conference at the University of Alberta. She compared what the Klein government has done in Alberta to the racial discrimination in the southern states. "What's happening in the all-out assault on the poor is apartheid. Just because it is legal, just because it is popular doesn't mean it is right. It's popular because Klein has made us believe that it is the fault of those who use the system."

According to Barlow, in Alberta we now have the lowest spending on social programs since 1949. What it had taken over forty years to build has been destroyed in five short years. Ribbons of interdependency have been largely dismantled. The idea of universality has been replaced by the idea of the deserving poor. A political activist, Maude Barlow is chairperson of the Council of Canadians, founding Co-chair of the Action Canada Network, and author of several books including *Take Back the Nation* and *Class Warfare, The Assault on Canadian Schools*.

Barlow said that Alberta has been the "petri dish" for privatization and cuts, and that what has been done in Alberta has spread to her home province of Ontario and other parts of the country.

"Corporations rule, not governments," she explained, "We must look at the puppeteers who are controlling the governments - they are just puppets." She stressed the need for political literacy so that we can be clear about what we are dealing with, and that we still have reason for hope, then outlined what we can do.

"We have to collectively reject the cult of inevitability. We have to build our own media, newspapers and magazines and radio that tell the story, and to become a citizens' movement fighting back.

We need to rediscover our history to find out how they did it in the past."

Barlow concluded with thoughts of hope.

"The world seen clearly is seen through tears. Why ask me then what is wrong with my eyes."

-Margaret Atwood

"I know. I do not approve. I am not resigned."

-Edna St. Vincent Millay.

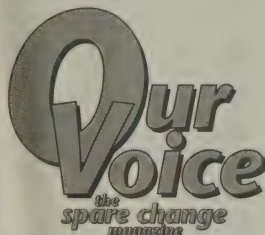


Career Designs

COMMUNITY CARE GIVER
LIGHT WAREHOUSING & SHIPPER/RECEIVER PROGRAMS

Career Designs

Life Plaza, 734 - 7 Avenue SW Calgary, AB T2P 3P8
Phone (403) 777-2430 Fax (403) 777-2438



Reach
over 15,000
concerned
readers in
Alberta!

Call John in Edmonton at 421-7966

Call Carol in Calgary at 230-4477

CALGARY METAL (1985) LTD.

3415 OGDEN ROAD SE

CALGARY, ALBERTA PHONE (403) 262-4542
CANADA T2G 4N4 FAX (403) 262-1114

SIMMAX Electric Generating Systems & Controls
DEUTZ Kubota Onan



SIMSON-MAXWELL

9750 - 62ND AVENUE
Edmonton, AB T6E 0E3
Phone: 434-6431
Fax: 436-0394
Toll Free: 1-800-591-9939



K&T METAL INDUSTRIES LTD.

8802 - 95 Street, Morinville
PO Box 2339 Morinville, AB
TOP IPO

Phone: 939-4486
Fax: 939-2687



NEWS OF THE WORLD

The sofa snapped shut like a shark's mouth

Robbers have been getting outrageously stuck. In Baltimore, lowlife Wayne Terry became wedged in a chimney as he wriggled down into the house beneath. "The hole was narrow," explained one police officer, "And Dwayne was fat." Equally inconvenienced was Frenchman Jacques Verpige, probably the only criminal in history to be captured by a deep-sprung IKEA sofa bed. Disaster struck when Mr Verpige, 32, of Lyons, discovered a diamond necklace in the safe of a house he was robbing. Screaming "I'm rich!" he duly ran around the room before diving onto an open sofa bed which then snapped shut with him inside. "It was like a shark's mouth," he explained. "My feet and arms were sticking out at either end, but I couldn't move. I thought I was going to be squeezed to death." Fortunately the homeowners returned shortly thereafter and released Mr Verpige, who was then arrested. "I'm not a very lucky burglar," he admitted. "Last year I tripped over someone's poof and fractured my skull."

Museum alert: watch out for gladiators

According to new research visiting a museum can lead to exhaustion, dehydration and chronically blistered feet. Such was certainly the case for American Malcolm Prill, who almost died after a trip to the Museum of Fitness in California. Mr Prill had gone expecting a potted history of physical exercise. What he hadn't anticipated was that visitors would be expected to participate in that history. "The first exhibit was a Gladiatorial Training School," he explained, "with actors playing the gladiators. It was just like Spartacus; but then they made us get in it and fight. The Mermaid ripped my trousers with his trident." Over the ensuing two hours Mr Prill was subjected to a bout of Greek wrestling, a US Marines' assault course and an Indian manhood ritual, at the end of which he was rushed to hospital with a heart murmur. "We had tickets for the Museum of Torture," he admitted, "but for obvious reasons have decided to cancel."

Getting shot over a big hairy deal!

In Taiwan a pyramid made from 21 million toys went up in flames after being ignited by fireworks launched to celebrate its completion. In South Korea, meanwhile, inventor Ke Ha Hong got trapped in a huge mound of sticky hair. Mr Hong, of Seoul, had developed the adhesive hair as an amusement for the over-fives. "You could put it wherever you wanted," he explained jovially, "on your face, on your hands, on your clothes. It was extremely sticky." On the day in question, Mr Hong had accidentally brushed against a large pile of the hair in his laboratory. "It stuck to my leg," he recalled. "I tried to pull it off but it got all over my hands and face as well. Then I fell into a box of the stuff. It was everywhere." Encased in hair, Mr Hong eventually managed to fight his way out onto the street, only to be mistaken for a yeti by a passing police officer and shot in the leg.

Articles compiled by Paul Sussman in **The Big Issue**, London, England's street-sold magazine.

Our Voice

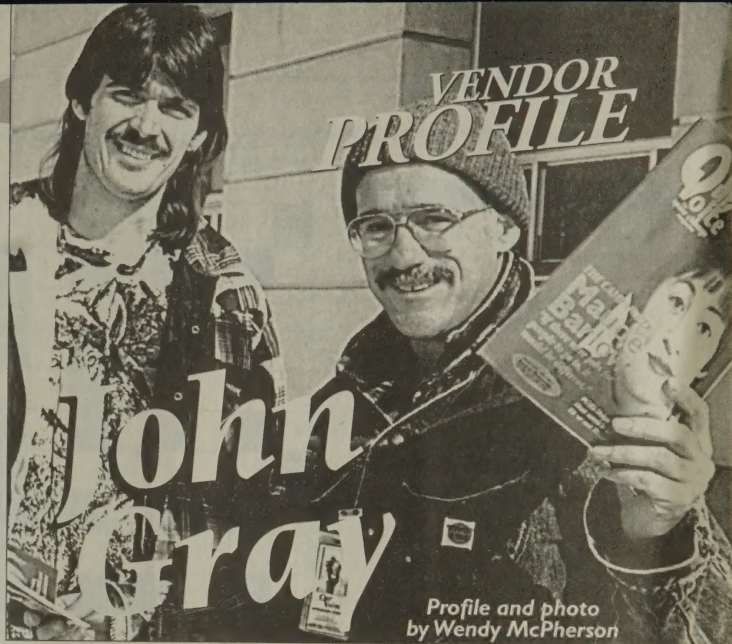
Life has been anything but boring for John Gray, Edmonton vendor #0584. As a young man he travelled right across the country, dipping his toe in all three oceans.

John was born in New Brunswick and raised by his grandmother on a Micmac Reserve. But early on in life he began to roam. Throughout his travels John has met many aboriginal people and he has spent time on many different reserves and settlements across Canada. He worked professionally with many different organizations, served on various boards of directors, and worked with cultural organizations, drum and dance troupes. He says he learned a lot from the elders and teachers. John is a writer and been published in several cultural books. He wrote for many different native publications. Life was fulfilling and busy. John had few worries or problems.

About eight years ago, personal matters began to overwhelm John. He found himself at odds with the mother of his son. There were many court battles which drained him emotionally. His work began to suffer and his health deteriorated. As he continued having to deal with legal and health problems, John reached a point where he felt he no longer could cope. His entire life's work began crashing down around him.

John turned to drinking. At first it was just to calm his nerves. After a few years, his life problem became a drinking problem. He had made several attempts to quit, but was unsuccessful. There was no course or self-help group that worked for him, because John was not yet prepared to deal with his problems.

There came a day when John realized that his life no longer made sense. Reality was just a dull thought in his mind. He had to face his problems head on. John reached out to several organizations in Edmonton and the workers reached their hands back out to John. Since then, his life has once again begun to make sense. John finds that there are no problems

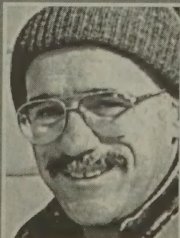


that are insurmountable if he reaches out and asks for help to help himself. He says that this takes a lot of footwork and faith.

John now has days where he thoroughly enjoys his life and where he is at. He knows that he can never go back to the way that things were. He is now headed forward in his life to see what will be there for him. John has a spiritual belief but does not belong to any religion. He feels that his relationship with his Creator is a personal matter. Bit by bit he is making headway and is very grateful for the people who have been there for him.

John says **Our Voice** magazine has been a wonderful experience. Every day he meets someone who will stop and share some of their insights and wisdom about life. At other times, it may just be a smile. Most people are kind and understanding, he says. He says that if it wasn't for the magazine being here, he doesn't know which way his life would have turned. He says that no matter how cold or dreary a day can be he can always find something bright in it, which mostly comes from those people out there who support the magazine.

**Our
Voice
Authorized
Vendor**



**V
E
N
D
O
R

B
A
N
D
G
E**

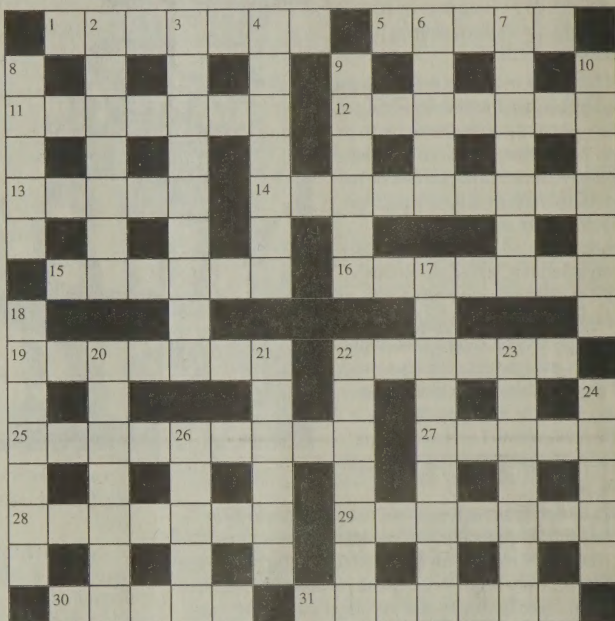
Vendor Name _____
Number _____
Authorized by _____

OUR VOICE VENDOR'S CODE

- I will be sober at all times while working
- I will be polite to all members of the public
- I will vend only in areas that are authorized

A C R O S S

- 1 Painter of La Gioconda (2,5)
- 5 Small insect that drinks the sap of plants (5)
- 11 What joints, eyes and lightbulbs sit in (7)
- 12 A cough drop or staggered squarish oval (7)
- 13 Alanis Morissette went to this Ottawa high school (5)
- 14 A fifth wheel, one who doesn't fit in (3,3,3)
- 15 Water-locked landmass (6)
- 16 Famous maker of cowboy hats (7)
- 19 Impulse, incentive (7)
- 22 To run very quickly over a short distance (6)
- 25 With two similar parts on either side of an axis (9)
- 27 Computer text (5)
- 28 More dire situation (7)
- 29 Bob and Doug Mackenzie's favourite saying (4,3)
- 30 Trembling like an _____ leaf (5)
- 31 Tack fitted onto the heads of horses (7)

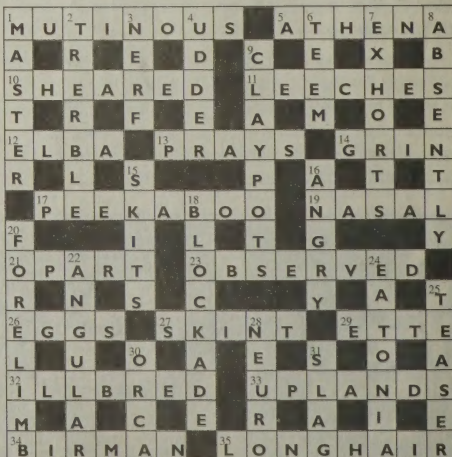


D O W N

- 2 Bowmen (7)
- 3 Clumsy, not graceful (9)
- 4 Medical: to have - ugh! - a tapeworm (7)
- 6 Flat 'pie' topped with sauce, meat, cheese (5)
- 7 A type of solidified molten rock (7)
- 8 Customary practice or procedure (5)
- 9 Found on knives and skates (6)
- 10 Fate (7)
- 11 Put a property sign on something (3,6)
- 18 East Indian primates (7)
- 20 Jalapeño, green, chili (7)
- 21 A van Gogh painting: '_____ Night' (6)
- 22 Where steel is melted (7)
- 23 Medical: dying body tissue (7)
- 24 Annoys, puts out (5)
- 26 Simple, trusting, unworldly (5)

Puzzle #48
answers will be
published in the
May issue of
Our Voice.

Answers to March Crossword #47



Kind Supporters

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations whose support helps publish this magazine.

TLC Pharmacy
17711-98A Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5T 5W8
444-4022

Mayo Industrial & Automotive Sales Ltd.
10538-115 Street
Edmonton, AB
426-2870

Renaissance Furnishing
12413-Stony Plain Road
Edmonton, AB
944-1762

OA Computers Inc.
4907-99 Street
Edmonton, AB
430-0811

Catholic Health Association
6R, 11111 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB
488-8074

Queen's Tailors & Drycleaners
#107, 8170-50 Street
Edmonton, AB
468-1207

Liquor World
11724-104 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
488-6000

Top Line Truck & Auto
5925-99 Street
Edmonton, AB
433-9170

Alberta Traffic Supply Ltd.
7798-16 Street
Edmonton, AB
T6P 1L9
440-4114

National Money Mart
15207-Stony Plain Road
Edmonton, AB
T5P 3Y4
483-2274

Crown Life Insurance
1904, Midland Walwyn
Tower
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2Z2
424-3005

Eden's Funeral Home
966 Elm Street
Pincher Creek, AB
T0K 1W0
627-3131

Lou Howell Bobcat Services
3208 - 104 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5W 0A9
474-0010

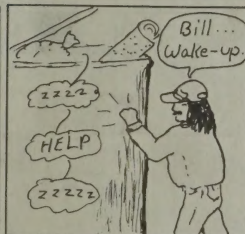
Galloway Seeds
57174 Range Road #225
Edmonton, AB
998-3036

J.A. Matheson Equities
11914-129th Avenue
Edmonton, AB
455-6688

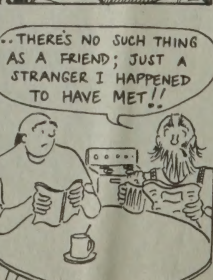
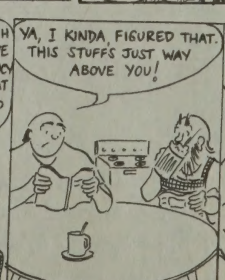
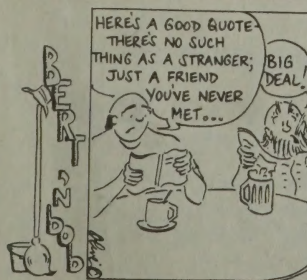
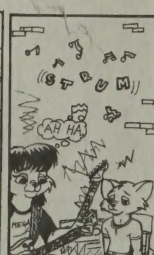
A Capella Catering
12704-110th Avenue
Edmonton, AB
454-0262

Brimstone Furnace World Ltd.
7216-52 Street
Edmonton, AB
T6B 2G3
468-2425

Soupline Bob



CONCRETE



The Lovers

by Henry Letendre

"It all started one Christmas, with a paint-by-number kit," says artist Henry Letendre. "I turned it over and painted on the back and just kept going." Since 1981 Henry has been making his living mainly with his paintings on particle board.

"Mostly landscapes, but religious subjects, and native themes," are what he paints today. Native spirituality figures prominently in his paintings. "I use my own symbols," says Henry, but he also incorporates some Christian ones, from his time back in Moose Jaw, after his first marriage ended. "I used to go out in the malls, it was a hard time," he says. He painted a Crucifix and The Last Supper...and the paintings started selling.

"It's crossover art," he says. "I might put a cross in there, and an eagle. Whatever I feel like doing," he says. The particle board texture gives the paintings a unique, antique look. "The galleries aren't too hip on the particle board but I don't want to paint on canvass...it's not me," he says.

The inspiration for many of the paintings comes from a mirror, he says. He puts a mirror behind himself when he paints. "I look into the mirror and see what I see."

"I might change someone's life a bit with my art. That's what I always think, you know," says Henry.



Our Voice
the spare change magazine

Call us with your comments.
Leave a message at
1-800-882-5954
or 424-0624 in Edmonton.

Write us a letter or send e-mail to:
sparechg@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Talking Back



Will you still be buying this magazine a year from now? Why or why not?

**Call in your opinion. 424-0624
1-800-882-5954**